

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 4, 16, and 56-59 remain in this application. Claims 3, 5-15, and 17-55 are cancelled. Reconsideration of the application is requested.

Independent claim 1 as amended above incorporates limitations previously appearing in claim 5, which is cancelled.

Independent claim 1 was rejected, along with the dependent claims remaining in this application, as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 5,249,661 to Kawamura et al. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are again requested.

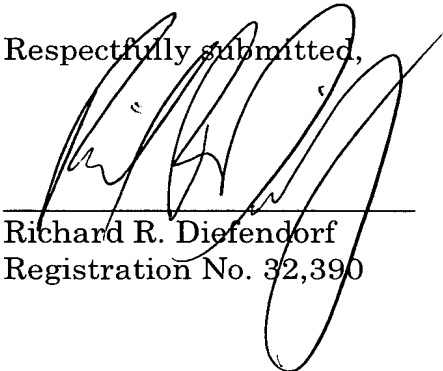
As noted previously, the Kawamura et al. ('661) patent does not disclose a synchronizer ring comprising a tribological coating which is permitted to be over 30% and up to 40% by weight of a solid lubricant as claim 1 requires. Again, the film 3 of the Kawamura et al. ('661) synchronizer ring has ceramic particles of 5 to 30% by weight disposed in molybdenum or a molybdenum alloy. Lines 30-35 in column 4 of the Kawamura et al. ('661) patent explicitly set forth that when the ceramic particles are present in an amount over 30 weight %, abrasion of the object member may overexceed. While the comments set forth by the Examiner in the paragraph spanning pages 2-3 of the Office Action are noted, in view of the discussion provided by lines 30-35 in column 4, modifying the Kawamura et al. ('661) film 3 so that it is permitted to be over 30% and up to 40% by weight of a solid lubricant certainly is not made obvious by the Kawamura et al. ('661) patent disclosure itself. Such a modification is also not suggested by anything else properly relied on by the Examiner, and the Examiner has provided no

convincing rationale for asserting that it would have been obvious "to have permitted the solid lubricant content to be above 30 wt% ... as taught by Kawamura." Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 1 based on the Kawamura et al. ('661) patent are in order and are again requested.

It is respectfully submitted that claim 1 is patentable in its present form for reasons discussed above. The rest of the claims in this application depend on claim 1 and are patentable as well.

This application is now in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner have any questions after considering this Reply, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,



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Richard R. Diefendorf  
Registration No. 32,390

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CROWELL & MORING, LLP  
P.O. BOX 14300  
Washington, DC 20044-4300  
Telephone No.: (202) 628-8800  
Facsimile No.: (202) 628-8844  
RRD:msy